

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 XMB-02

EB-07 /090 W

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R 160753Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0910

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

UREHCR/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA 0882

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN,XY, NG

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES
(ECOWAS/CEDEAO)

REF: LAGOS 5376

1. DURING MEETING JUNE 12 WITH FONMIN DJERMAKOYE,
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I NOTED THAT SIX COUNTRIES HAD EITHER RATIFIED OR WERE

VERY CLOSE TO RATIFYING ECOWAS TREATY AND ASKED WHETHER NIGER MIGHT BE SEVENTH, THUS BRINGING TREATY IN BEING. DJERMAKOYE HEDGED.

2. DJERMAKOYE SAID NIGER HAD SIGNED TREATY IN GOOD FAITH AT LAGOS AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RATIFY IT IN DUE COURSE. HOWEVER, GON WISHED TO STUDY IMPLICATIONS OF TREATY WITH OTHER CEAO MEMBERS AND SEE HOW PROPOSED CEAO PROVISIONS SUCH AS TAX EQUALIZER ON TRADE AMONG CEAO MEMBERS AND MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE ACROSS BORDERS FITTED INTO ECOWAS CONCEPTS. DJERMAKOYE GAVE IMPRESSION GON DID NOT WANT TO GET OUT AHEAD OF RANKING CEAO MEMBERS.

3. AT SAME TIME, DJERMAKOYE EMPHASIZED THAT GON CONSIDERED ECOWAS IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY IN CONTEXT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NIGER AND NIGERIA. NIGER HAD 2,000 KILOMETERS OF BORDER WITH NIGERIA AND MOST OF ITS POPULATED AREAS WERE CLOSELY INTEGRATED WITH NIGERIA'S ECONOMY AND DEPENDENT ON LATTER. NIGER COULD NOT AFFORD ANYTHING OTHER THAN GOOD RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA. HAPPILY, CLIMATE FOR BETTER RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED NOW THAT IVORY COAST AND NIGERIA WERE ONCE AGAIN GETTING ALONG AND NIGER WHICH NEEDED GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH WAS NO LONGER CAUGHT IN MIDDLE.

3. COMMENT: WE CONCLUDE NIGER WILL EVENTUALLY RATIFY TREATY.HECK

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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